

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14 in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CANCELED)

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for detecting at least one of position and surface structure of an object, comprising:

placing the object immediately above an array of capacitive sensors, each having an outer surface with a lateral extent of at most half of a lateral extent of the object; and

electronically evaluating a capacitive disturbance of the outer surface of at least one individual sensor caused by said placing to detect at least one of the position and surface structure of a single electric component.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim ~~4~~7, further comprising forming an image of the object.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the array is a capacitive fingerprint sensor formed of a semiconductor.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 44~~7~~, wherein said evaluating detects at least one of the position and surface structure of terminal pins of the electric component.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim 44 12, wherein said evaluating detects the position and the orientation of the terminal pins of the electric component in an automatic component mounting machine that has a machine tool and a component provider, and wherein the array is integrated in at least one of the component provider and the machine tool.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for processing objects with a tool for providing the objects and a tool for transporting the objects, comprising:
a fingerprint sensor, integrated in at least one of the tools, to detect at least one of a position and a surface structure of ~~the objects~~ a single electric component.